Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.29/7
PBC.20/7
21 July 2004

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-ninth session
Vienna, 9-11 November 2004

Programme and Budget Committee

Twentieth session
Vienna, 8-9 September 2004
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND PROPOSED NEW CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Note by the Secretariat

Outlines the measures needed to ensure that the Vienna International Centre responds effectively to the headquarters minimum operating security standards (H-MOSS) and the financial implications thereof for UNIDO. Furthermore, reports on the plans for new conference facilities and their possible cost implications.

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Distr.: 3 August 2004
V.04-56494 (E)

Introduction

1. In light of the worldwide radically altered security situation and the increase of threats of terrorist attacks on United Nations operations and facilities, the Secretary-General has introduced a number of measures to ensure that the minimum standards of security and safety for staff and infrastructure are achieved both at United Nations headquarters and in the field.

2. After the attack on the United Nations headquarters at Baghdad in August 2003, it became apparent that additional measures had to be introduced at United Nations headquarters locations. The headquarters minimum operating security standards (H-MOSS) have therefore been significantly enhanced. The Vienna International Centre-based organizations (VBOs) have had continuous discussions on these measures to reach compliance with the new H-MOSS, both internally and with the Austrian authorities.

3. Based on an analysis prepared by the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) Security and Safety Services, an initial set of necessary measures to comply with H-MOSS in the Vienna International Centre (VIC) were identified and corresponding proposals submitted to the United Nations Secretariat in New York. These requirements for security improvements were included in a report by the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises" (A/58/756), which was considered by the General Assembly on 18 June 2004 (resolution 58/295).

4. A joint presentation of VBOs on 22 April 2004 informed permanent missions of the background and status of new security enhancements. The presentation also covered a proposal by the Austrian authorities to expand conference facilities at the VIC, for which updated information is provided in chapter II of the present document.

I. SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

A. Necessary measures to respond effectively to H-MOSS

5. While H-MOSS introduced a gamut of additional security measures, it is important to highlight that certain improvements had already been introduced at the VIC even before the development of the new headquarters security standards, including:

(a) The inside perimeter coverage had been strengthened through the internal redeployment of security staff. Incoming vehicles are being checked and plans are being developed to screen all incoming vehicles for explosives;

(b) The existing fence, including fire ramps had been replaced with a new reinforced one.

6. There are, however, other areas that need to be addressed to achieve an effective level of security in accordance with H-MOSS. The concept and design for the implementation of necessary measures has already been developed by the security and information technology services of UNOV. Due to the sensitive nature of this information the present document will not elaborate on the particular vulnerabilities of the VIC. The envisaged investments include the following items:

(a) Vehicle crash barriers at all gates;

(b) Inside/outside perimeter fence surveillance/ alarm system;

(c) Detection equipment for explosive/harmful substances;

(d) Explosives detector for all vehicles entering the VIC;

(e) Radio frequency-based grounds pass system;

(f) Systems for remote closing/locking access doors;

(g) Reinforcement of perimeter security posts;

(h) Specialized uniform items and protective equipment;

(i) New radio communication system;

(j) Specialized training programmes;

(k) Additional security staff; and

(l) Installation of anti-shattering windows and partial filming of windows.

7. The last item on the list is one of the most critical requirements of the headquarters security standards: the application of blast film or the installation of anti-shattering windows. The technically desired solution would involve the replacement of all windows with heat-insulated, sun heat reflection and anti-shattering glazing. However, due to the construction of the building, such work would cause the release of asbestos dust from the frames of the majority of around 16,000 windows, representing 28,000 m2 of surface. Therefore, this project will have to be synchronized with the complete removal of asbestos from the buildings of the VIC.

8. Since the asbestos removal will take several years, a temporary solution in the form of the application of

blast film on the surface of windows in the most critical locations is a must. At the same time, for the minority of the windows not affected by asbestos, i.e. on the lower floors, the replacement will start soon.

9. In relation to security enhancements outside the VIC perimeters, working group discussions have been held between the Austrian authorities and VBO representatives. The following measures are under discussion:

(a) The VBOs have requested that the public roads adjacent to the fence of the VIC be closed. So far, the Austrian authorities have looked favourably at closing the roads to heavy traffic, leaving them open only to passenger vehicles and small cargo vehicles. This may reduce the blast danger from larger devices, but does not exclude the danger from smaller vehicles. The organizations maintain their position on roads closure, as the facades of the VIC are at risk from large explosions on those roads in spite of the installation of either anti-shattering windows or blast film;

(b) The VBOs requested the bus terminus at the facade of B-building to be moved. The City of Vienna is committed to moving the terminus.

10. In addition, the Austrian police have increased patrols at the VIC perimeter. Agreements are close to being reached on the location of surveillance cameras and police reaction to incidents.

11. Thus far, the Austrian authorities have reacted positively to covering just the costs of enhancements outside the VIC perimeter.

B. Budgetary requirements

12. As indicated above, the measures that are necessary to respond effectively to H-MOSS will have to be financed from resources to be made available to the organizations. The total budgetary requirements for the first phase of these important security enhancements amount to $13.25 million, out of which $10.88 million is a one-time capital investment and $2.37 million recurring costs. While the one-time costs are related to the procurement of equipment and services in relation to the items listed above, there will also be annual recurring costs consisting mostly of the provision for new security officer posts.

13. As the office that provides security and safety services to all VBOs, UNOV submitted this set of budgetary requirements of $13.25 million on 6 February 2004 to the United Nations Secretariat for inclusion in the Secretary-General's proposal to the General Assembly. The General Assembly approved measures totalling $8.4 million for the VIC and appropriated an amount of $1.9 million for UNOV's share of this amount for immediate implementation (resolution 58/295). Funds corresponding to the shares of other VBOs will have to be made available by Member States of the respective organizations.

14. Not included in this first phase were resources for shatter-resistant windows, electronic access control systems and additional security staff, for which a submission to the General Assembly in autumn of 2004 is under preparation. The report will also include such additional requirements for the Vienna headquarters that could be identified only after the initial submission in February 2004.

15. The financial requirements for the initial phase at the VIC amount to $8.4 million, or €7.56 million (calculated on an exchange rate basis of €0.901 per $1). UNIDO's share represents $1.38 million of that amount, equalling €1.24 million.

C. Financing modalities for UNIDO

16. In the programme and budgets for the biennium 2004-2005, as contained in document IDB.27/3 and as approved in decision GC.10/Dec.17, there is no provision for UNIDO to cover the unforeseen expenditures. Furthermore, due to the reduction in the proposed expenditures by Member States in the final approval process of the biennial budgets, as well as the less-than-hundred per cent collection rate, the Organization is unable to identify savings of this magnitude.

17. The Financial Regulations of UNIDO offer two approaches in situations such as the one at hand. The Director-General may submit a supplementary estimate for the current fiscal period (i.e. the current biennium) for the regular budget when required, as stipulated in financial regulation 3.9. If approved, the additional budgetary requirements would be assessed on Member States through the application of the current scale of assessment. However, financial regulation 3.9 also stipulates that supplementary estimates shall be subject to the same review and approval procedures laid down for initial estimates, i.e. through the Programme and Budget Committee to the Board for consideration and approval by the General Conference (financial regulations 3.5 and 3.8). This process is lengthy and would not facilitate UNIDO's contribution towards the investment costs during 2004.

18. Alternatively, the Director-General is authorized to accept voluntary contributions on behalf of the Organization, provided that the purpose for which the contributions are made is consistent with the policies of the Organization (financial regulation 6.1). Furthermore, the Director-General may establish special accounts if the creation thereof is reported to the Board through the Programme and Budget Committee.

19. Considering the above alternatives, the Secretariat would propose to Member States the creation of a special account for the collection of voluntary contributions towards meeting UNIDO's share in implementing the action plan for making the VIC H-MOSS compliant. The special account would be available for the period during which the capital investments are completed, and would be utilized to finance UNIDO's share towards all related costs for which no budgetary provision exists in the regular budget of the Organization. The utilization of the special account would be limited to the availability of funds in the account. Furthermore, the special account would be subject to reporting in the annual financial statements of the Organization as well as to standard auditing by the External Auditor.

20. As stated above, the initial funding requirements of the proposed special account amount to €1.24 million. However, since UNOV is in the process of identifying additional necessary security measures to ensure H-MOSS compliance, additional funding may be necessary.

II. PROPOSED NEW CONFERENCE FACILITIES

21. In response to a request by the VBOs to the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Government has kindly offered to construct a new conference building adjacent to VIC buildings A and B. Permanent missions were informed about this proposal in a joint briefing on 22 April 2004. The new conference building would initially be used during the asbestos removal project to accommodate conferences in the years 2007-2009. Subsequently, it would provide additional conference facilities, large enough to accommodate also the General Conference.

22. A draft memorandum of understanding regulating the arrangements for the new conference facilities is currently being negotiated by the Republic of Austria and the VBOs. The Austrian Government committed itself to bearing the construction costs amounting to €50 million. The VBOs are expected to contribute an amount of €2.5 million. UNIDO's share will be based on the expected utilization of the conference building, namely 3 per cent. Starting in 2010, the new facilities would incur annual operation and maintenance costs. Also to these costs UNIDO would contribute a share of 3 per cent. Under the current scenario there would be no financial implications envisaged for UNIDO during the biennium 2006-2007. UNIDO's share would have to be taken into account in the programme and budgets, 2008-2009. The Secretariat will keep Member States abreast of any new developments.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE COMMITTEE

23. The Committee may wish to consider adopting the following draft conclusion:

"The Programme and Budget Committee:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.29/7-PBC.20/7 concerning security enhancements in the Vienna International Centre;

"(b) Also takes note of the creation of a special account by the Director-General as described in document IDB.29/7-PBC.20/7, paragraphs 18 and 19, for the purpose of collecting voluntary contributions to finance UNIDO's share of the activities to comply with the headquarters minimum operating security standards in the Vienna International Centre;

"(c) Urges Member States to make generous and timely contributions to the special account so as to allow the implementation of the relevant measures to proceed in a speedy manner."